This seventh grade English class will focus on helping you to develop four skills: reading closely, writing clearly, speaking powerfully, and listening carefully.

**Reading:**

As part of the reading curriculum, you will be reading books of your choice as well as books in common with your classmates. You must bring an independent reading book with you to class each day, complete independent reading projects, and participate in reading conferences with your teacher. For reading assignments in the common books, you must always annotate what you read (we will teach you how). You will have a variety of assignments based on the readings, from speeches and debates to written reflections and tests.

**Writing:**

Over the course of this year you will write in a variety of genres to help develop your skills and abilities as a writer. We will spend time working on writing mechanics – that is, good grammar – that you are expected to use in all of your writing. On our writing days, class time will be devoted to workshops where I will teach you about writing, followed by time for you to spend on your writing project. To be a good writer, you must edit and revise your work over and over again. You will thus be expected to write multiple drafts for each writing project.

**Weekly Schedule:**

This year, our weekly schedule will be split into *reading days* and *writing days*. Our block schedule is set up so each class meets for a total of five 45-minute periods, one of which is back-to-back (the “double block”). We will use two of those class periods for *writing days,* and we will use the other three for *reading days*. That is, we might spend two different days or our double block (two 45-minute class periods) focused on writing, and the other times we meet will be set aside for reading work.

**Vocabulary:**

We will spend time studying vocabulary found in the books that we read in class. You will learn approximately 50 words this year, including the definition, part of speech, and how to use it in a sentence. You should keep records of these words using index cards that we provide in order to be prepared for regular quizzes.

**Class Preparation and Participation:**

In keeping with Washington Latin’s homework policy, you will be expected to spend approximately 20 minutes each night on English homework. Your preparation for class involves completing the assigned work as well as bringing all of your materials to class. These materials include:

* Your black three-ring binder
* An independent reading book
* The class text we are reading
* Your WLPCS planner
* A writing utensil.

Please remember: If you arrive to class without those materials, **you will not be allowed to go to your locker to retrieve them.** You are expected to be ***READY*** for each of your classes, and thus you need to utilize your passing periods and breaks to pack whatever materials you need for each of your classes.

Your participation in class includes how well you do the following: stay on task throughout the class, engage in class activities, contribute to class discussions, and act with respect toward your classmates and teacher.

Mr. Green will assess your ability to accomplish the expectations written above using a 10-point scale each day. Your grade will be determined using these categories and point totals:

1 pt: Homework

1 pt: Writing Utensil

1 pt: Binder

1 pt: IR book

1 pt: Proper uniform

1 pt: On Time

4 pts: “ In Class” participation

         0 – barely conscious and/or disruptive force

1 – inconsistent focus, no notes/volunteering

             2 – inconsistent focus, some notes/volunteering

3 – focused, taking notes, occasional volunteering

4 – focused, taking notes, volunteering

**Late Homework – Daily Assignments and Long-Term Projects:**

*Daily homework*

The point of daily homework is to advance a student's learning through independent practice and/or exploration. Homework and classwork are often intertwined and homework provides the catalyst for a day's lesson. I will therefore not accept late homework; students whose homework is completed at the start of the class period it is due (the degree of completion is determined by me) will receive full credit; students who fail to turn in homework on the day it is due will not receive any credit for that daily assignment. I will accept homework by the end of the day the assignment is due, but you will not be able to earn a grade higher than 90% on that assignment. That is, students can finish an assignment during the elective period (if s/he did not finish it before class) and still earn an A- on it. I will grant exceptions to this policy for illness, significant family events, or anything else I deem worthy of exception.

*Long-term projects*

Because we take seriously our responsibility to teach students how to manage their time and plan for a long-term project, we take a different approach with anything that requires more than one or two days to complete. My students who complete a long-term project on time are can receive full credit; students who hand in a long-term project one day late can receive no better than an A-, and students who turn in a long-term project two days late can receive no better than a B+, and so on. At the end of the two-day period, I may decide to give students partial credit for the work they have done on a project or they may decide to give a student a failing grade. I will determine any exceptions for illness, significant family events, etc.

**Expectations for Behavior:**

1. Respect yourself
2. Respect others
3. Respect this school

These three expectations lay out precisely what I hope to see from each of my students every day.

* You will **respect yourself** by trying new, sometimes difficult ways of learning, and you will do so without putting yourself down when faced with failure or struggle.
* You will **respect others** by interacting and engaging with one another kindly and by helping to foster a positive learning environment in the classroom.
* You will **respect the school** by treating the facilities and classroom with dignity and by helping to maintain the beauty of our building.

**Absence:**

Makeup work will always be available in Mr. Green’s classroom in the *While You Were Out…* bin by the window. You have as much time to make up the work as you were out of school. For example, if you are out of school for two days, then you have two days to make up the work. After those two days, it will be considered late. If you have an unexcused absence, you will not be able to make up the work. Please be sure to see Mr. Green if you know you will miss class on a particular day for any reason.

**Plagiarism Policy:**

You must do your own work. If you write down information from a website or another place, you must say so. Any work turned in that is not your own will result in an automatic zero and could include an additional consequence.

**Discipline:**

I anticipate my students will leave my class each day having met the behavioral expectations outlined above. Students, however, will at times get off task. This may include talking out of turn or other disruptive behavior, disrespect toward others, or any behavior that falls outside the expectations for class or those outlined in the Family Handbook.

Students will be given **three opportunities** to reform their behavior throughout a class if they are off-task. Students will first receive a ***verbal warning*** or reminder to fix the behavior. If the behavior persists, that student will have *a* ***conversation with me*** to discuss their behavior during or after class. I will then determine if a consequence is necessary. The third offense leads to a ***direct consequence***. A direct consequence could include a demerit, a detention, or sending you to Dean Callum, Ms. Chall, or Mr. Eleby-El.

**Grade Information:**

Homework/class assignments 20% Writing projects 35%

Class preparation/participation 20% Quizzes/tests 25%